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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A digital content reproducing system comprising:  
a movie company terminal which stores and manages a digital content of movies;  
a content delivery terminal in communication with the movie company terminal via a network; and  
a projecting system which is connected to the content delivery terminal via the network, receives the digital content from the content delivery terminal via the network, and reproduces the digital content to show a movie, wherein the projecting system comprises:  
a reproducing device; and  
a backup reproducing device having an audio decoder and a video decoder that decodes the digital content supplied from a mass memory unit, while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal indicating progress of reproducing of the reproducing device, directly to the video decoder of the backup reproducing device, and starts processing the decoded digital content in synchronization with the first predetermined signal when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal,  
wherein the backup reproducing device starts the decoding when the backup reproducing device receives said first predetermined signal.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 1, wherein the projecting system further comprises an audio-visual input switching device that receives the output signals from said reproducing device and said backup reproducing device and that selects the output signals from an active one of said reproducing device and the backup reproducing device to produce the selected output signals, wherein the mass memory unit stores the digital content supplied via the network.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 2, wherein the projecting system further comprises:  
a projecting device which receives the video signals from the audio-visual switching device and projects them on a screen; and

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an audio processor which receives the audio signals from the audio-visual switching device and outputs them to a loudspeaker.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 3, wherein the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device comprise the same elements and each of the devices comprises:

an encrypting module which is connected to the mass memory unit and encrypts the digital content received from the mass memory unit;

an audio-visual separating module which receives the digital content from the encrypting module and separates them into the video signals and the audio signals;

the video decoder which receives the video signals from the audio-visual separating module and decodes them;

a video signal output device which receives the decoded video signals from the video decoder and outputs them to the audio-visual input switching device;

the audio decoder which receives the audio signals from the audio-visual separating module and decodes them; and

an audio signal output device which receives the decoded audio signals from the audio decoder and outputs them to the audio-visual input switching device.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 4, wherein the backup reproducing device decodes the signals at the video decoder and the audio decoder while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and wherein the backup reproducing device starts a sending process of the decoded signals to the audio-visual input switching device in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 5, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal, to the reproducing device, to instruct the reproducing device to stop, after the backup reproducing device starts the sending process.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 3,

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wherein the digital content is individually supplied in the form of video data and audio data, and wherein the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device comprise the same elements and each of the devices comprises:

a video data processing section and an audio data processing section,

the video data processing section comprising:

a first encrypting module which is connected to the mass memory unit and encrypts the video data received from the mass memory unit;

the video decoder which receives the video signals from the first decrypting module and decodes them; and

a video signal output device which receives the decoded video signals from the video decoder and outputs them to the audio-visual input switching device, and

the audio data processing section comprising:

a second encrypting module which is connected to the mass memory unit and encrypts the audio data received from the mass memory unit;

the audio decoder which receives the audio signals from the second decrypting module and decodes them; and

an audio signal output device which receives the decoded audio signals from the audio decoder and outputs them to the audio-visual input switching device.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 7, wherein the video signal output device supplies the decoded video signals to a projecting device, and

wherein the audio signal output device supplies the decoded audio signals to an audio processor.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 7, wherein the backup reproducing device decodes the signals at the video decoder and the audio decoder while the reproducing device periodically sends said first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and wherein the backup reproducing device starts a sending process of the decoded signals to the audio-visual input switching device in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

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Claim 10. (Previously presented) The digital content reproducing system of claim 9, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal to the reproducing device, to instruct the reproducing device to stop, after the backup reproducing device starts the sending process.

Claim 11. (Cancelled.)

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A digital content reproducing system comprising:  
a movie company terminal which stores and manages a digital content of movies;  
a content delivery terminal in communication with the movie company terminal via a network; and

a projecting system which is connected to the content delivery terminal via a network, wherein the projecting system receives the digital content from the content delivery terminal via the network and reproduces the digital content to show a movie, the projecting system comprises:

a reproducing device which supplies signals to reproduce the digital content;

and

a backup reproducing device which supplies signals to reproduce the digital content when the reproducing device cannot serve to reproduce the digital content;

wherein the backup reproducing device has an audio decoder and a video decoder, and performs a decoding process of the digital content supplied from a mass memory unit, while the reproducing device periodically sends a predetermined signal indicating progress of the reproducing device directly to the video decoder of the backup reproducing device, and the backup reproducing device starts processing the decoded digital content in synchronization with the predetermined signal and supplying the signals to reproduce the movie in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the predetermined signal,

wherein the backup reproducing device starts the decoding process when the backup reproducing device receives the predetermined signal.

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Claim 13. (Cancelled.)

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method of reproducing a digital content at a movie theater terminal received from a movie company terminal via a content delivery company terminal at either one of a reproducing device and a backup reproducing device, comprising:

- at the movie company terminal:
  - requesting registration of a digital content of a movie with the content delivery company terminal; and
  - sending the digital content of the movie in response to a request to register from the content delivery company terminal;
- at the content delivery company terminal:
  - sending a request to register the digital content of the movie to the movie company terminal in response to a request to register from the movie company terminal;
  - receiving the digital content of the movie from the movie company terminal;
- and
  - sending the digital content of the movie to a movie theater terminal that includes the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device;
- at the reproducing device:
  - receiving a digital content of a movie;
  - decoding the digital content;
  - processing the decoded digital content;
  - supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and
  - periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal indicating progress of the reproducing device to a backup reproducing device; and
- at the backup reproducing device:
  - receiving a digital content of a movie;
  - decoding the digital content supplied from a mass memory unit by an audio decoder and a video decoder while the video decoder directly receives the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;
  - receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;
  - starting processing the decoded digital content in synchronization with the predetermined signal when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device;

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and

supplying a video signal and an audio signal to an audio-visual input switching device to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device,

wherein the backup reproducing device starts the decoding when the backup reproducing device receives the predetermined signal.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A recording medium readable by a computer and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of reproducing a digital content, the method comprising:

at a movie company terminal:

requesting registration of a digital content of a movie with a content delivery company terminal; and

sending the digital content of the movie in response to a request to register from the content delivery company terminal;

at a content delivery company terminal:

sending a request to register the digital content of the movie to the movie company terminal in response to a request to register from the movie company terminal;

receiving the digital content of the movie from the movie company terminal;

and

sending the digital content of the movie to a movie theater terminal that includes a reproducing device and a backup reproducing device;

at the reproducing device:

receiving the digital content of the movie;

decoding the digital content;

processing the decoded digital content;

supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and

periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal indicating progress of the reproducing device to the backup reproducing device; and

at the backup reproducing device:

receiving the digital content of the movie;

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decoding the digital content supplied from a mass memory unit, by an audio decoder and a video decoder while the video decoder directly receives the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

starting processing the decoded digital content in synchronization with the predetermined signal when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device; and

supplying a video signal and an audio signal to an audio-visual input switching device to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device,

wherein the backup reproducing device starts the decoding when the backup reproducing device receives the predetermined signal.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program stored in a~~ computer-readable medium encoded with a program media and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method of reproducing a digital content, the method comprising:

at a movie company terminal:

requesting, by the movie company terminal, registration of a digital content of a movie with a content delivery company terminal; and

sending, by the movie company terminal, the digital content of the movie in response to a request to register from the content delivery company terminal;

at the content delivery company terminal:

sending, by the content delivery company terminal, a request to register the digital content of the movie to the movie company terminal in response to a request to register from the movie company terminal;

receiving, by the content delivery company terminal, the digital content of the movie from the movie company terminal; and

sending, by the content delivery company terminal, the digital content of the movie to a movie theater terminal that includes a reproducing device and a backup reproducing device having an audio decoder and a video decoder;

at the reproducing device:

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receiving, by the reproducing device, the digital content of the movie;  
decoding, by the reproducing device, the digital content;  
processing, by the reproducing device, the decoded digital content;  
supplying, by the reproducing device, signals to reproduce the movie; and  
periodically, by the reproducing device, sending, in normal operation, a  
predetermined signal indicating progress of the reproducing device to the backup  
reproducing device; and  
at the backup reproducing device:  
receiving, by the backup reproducing device, the digital content of the movie;  
decoding, by the backup reproducing device, the digital content while  
receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;  
receiving, directly by the video decoder of the backup reproducing device, the  
predetermined signal from the reproducing device;  
starting processing, by the backup reproducing device, the decoded digital  
content supplied from a mass memory unit, in synchronization with the predetermined  
signal when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device; and  
supplying, by the backup reproducing device, a video signal and an audio  
signal to an audio-visual input switching device to reproduce the movie, when the  
predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device,  
wherein the backup reproducing device starts the decoding when the backup  
reproducing device receives the predetermined signal.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A ~~program product comprising computer-readable instructions and a computer-readable recording medium~~ encoded with bearing the computer readable instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the instructions enabling a computer to perform a method of reproducing a digital content, the method comprising:

at a movie company terminal:

requesting registration of a digital content of a movie with a content delivery  
company terminal; and

sending the digital content of the movie in response to a request to register  
from the content delivery company terminal;

at the content delivery company terminal:



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sending a request to register the digital content of the movie to the movie company terminal in response to a request to register from the movie company terminal;

receiving the digital content of the movie from the movie company terminal;  
and

sending the digital content of the movie to a movie theater terminal that includes a reproducing device and a backup reproducing device;

at the reproducing device:

receiving the digital content of the movie;

decoding the digital content;

processing the decoded digital content;

supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and

periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal indicating progress of the reproducing device to the backup reproducing device; and

at the backup reproducing device:

receiving the digital content of the movie;

decoding the digital content supplied from a mass memory unit by an audio decoder and a video decoder while the video decoder directly receives the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

starting processing the decoded digital content in synchronization with the predetermined signal when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device; and

supplying a video signal and an audio signal to an audio-visual input switching device to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device,

wherein the backup reproducing device starts the decoding when the backup reproducing device receives the predetermined signal.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the backup reproducing device sends the decoded signals to the projecting system if the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

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Claim 19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal to the reproducing device in response to the reproducing device stopping the sending of the first predetermined signal.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the reproducing device stops sending decoded signals in response to receiving the second predetermined signal.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the backup reproducing device decrypts signals while the reproducing device periodically sends the first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A digital content projecting system comprising:  
a movie company terminal which stores and manages a digital content of movies;  
a content delivery terminal in communication with the movie company terminal via a network; and  
a movie theater terminal in communication with the content delivery terminal, the movie theater terminal comprising:  
a reproducing device;  
a backup reproducing device having an audio decoder and a video decoder;  
and  
an audio-visual input switching device;  
wherein the reproducing device reproduces a digital content of movies, said digital content being received from the movie company terminal via the content delivery terminal, and  
wherein the backup reproducing device decodes said digital content supplied from a mass memory unit while the reproducing device periodically sends a predetermined signal directly to the video decoder indicating progress of the reproducing device to the backup reproducing device, further  
wherein said audio-visual input switching device receives a video signal and an audio signal from one of said reproducing device and said backup reproducing device, and

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wherein said backup reproducing device starts processing the decoded digital content in synchronization with the predetermined signal when the reproducing device stops sending the predetermined signal, and

wherein the backup reproducing device starts the decoding when the backup reproducing device receives the predetermined signal.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The digital content projecting system of claim 22, wherein said backup reproducing device starts outputting said digital content in response to a stop of said predetermined signal.

Claims 24-25. (Cancelled.)